

the characteristics of electric sparks. In 1948 he joined the University of Liverpool as senior lecturer in electrical engineering and in 1949 he was promoted reader. Prof. Craggs's recent researches have been concerned mainly with electrical discharges. He has been an active member of the Institute of Physics and has been largely responsible for the formation of the Liverpool and North Wales Branch of the Institute. He is a member of a Ministry of Supply committee dealing with the application of electronic techniques to ballistic problems.

Geology at St. Andrews :

Dr. Charles F. Davidson, O.B.E.

DR. C. F. DAVIDSON has been appointed to the chair of geology in the University of St. Andrews, consequent upon the retirement in 1954 of Prof. D. E. Innes. Dr. Davidson is a graduate of that University (University College, Dundee), where he took his degree with first-class honours in geology and mineralogy; afterwards he was awarded the D.Sc. degree for a thesis on the geology of a part of South Harris, Outer Hebrides. Dr. Davidson has had a distinguished career with the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Museum of Practical Geology, which he joined in 1934, and from which he has resigned his appointment as district geologist in charge of the Atomic Energy Division. He was first concerned with preparing exhibits for the new Museum in South Kensington which was opened in 1935, and his duties under Dr. W. F. P. McLintock widened his experience, especially in mineral determination. During the Second World War his attention was turned to preparing reports on overseas geology for the intelligence departments of the Services, particularly for the Naval Intelligence Division; in 1941 he compiled a report on uranium resources. It was this latter work which led to the setting up in the Geological Survey, with Dr. Davidson in charge, of a special department for investigations upon radioactive ores. Towards the end of 1945, the responsibility for research and development on atomic energy passed from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to the Ministry of Supply, and in 1954 to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. The work of the Survey's Atomic Energy Division, undertaken in conjunction with these various bodies, was directed towards the discovery and evaluation of radioactive mineral deposits capable of furnishing uranium and thorium ores to the British market. Dr. Davidson's success was marked both in field-work and in the development of appropriate laboratory techniques. In the course of his very extensive travels, he has visited areas in remote parts of the world to assess the economic potentialities of these important ores, and in several cases he has contributed to the scientific understanding of their genesis.

Visit of Russian Scientists to Britain

THE Royal Society, in association with the Soviet Relations Committee of the British Council, has arranged for a party of leading Russian scientists to visit Britain. The delegation is led by Academician A. N. Nesmeyanov, president of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow; other members of the delegation include Academician I. G. Petrovsky, mathematician and rector of the University of Moscow; Academician A. L. Kursanov, plant physiologist; Academician V. A. Kargin, physical chemist; and corresponding member of the Academy P. Ya. Kotchina, hydraulics

engineer. Academician Nesmeyanov is a distinguished chemist and was director of the Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences. He became president of the Academy of Sciences in 1951, and has been a member of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. since 1950. In addition to a number of functions at the Royal Society, the delegation is to visit Cambridge (November 18-20), where they will be the guests of Lord Adrian at Trinity College; Edinburgh (November 21-22), where their programme is being arranged by Sir Edward Appleton, principal and vice-chancellor of the University; and Oxford (November 25-26), where Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, foreign secretary of the Royal Society, is arranging a programme of visits. The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee will receive the delegation in the Houses of Parliament, and visits have been arranged to the National Physical Laboratory and Rothamsted Experimental Station. The delegation will be the guests of the Royal Society at its anniversary dinner on St. Andrew's Day, November 30.

Visit of British Atomic Scientists to the U.S.S.R.

A DELEGATION from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is on a six-day visit to the Soviet Union. Owing to heavy commitments in Great Britain, Sir John Cockcroft, director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has not been able to take part in the visit; the delegation is therefore being led by Dr. B. F. J. Schonland, deputy director at Harwell. The other members of the delegation are: Dr. Willis Jackson, representing the Royal Society and the British Nuclear Energy Conference; Mr. B. D. Goodlet, head of the Engineering Research and Development Division, Harwell; Dr. J. V. Dunworth, head of the Reactor Physics Division, Harwell; Dr. D. W. Fry, head of the General Physics Division, Harwell; Mr. A. A. Smales, head of the Analytical Chemistry Group, Harwell; Dr. L. Rotherham, head of research and development, Industrial Group, Atomic Energy Authority; and Mr. J. C. C. Stewart, director of the Technical Policy Industrial Group, Atomic Energy Authority. The visit is the result of an invitation for a British delegation to visit the Soviet Union addressed to Sir John Cockcroft at Geneva in August by the Soviet delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Fifteen Soviet scientists were among the delegates to that Conference which visited Harwell last August. The programme of the visit to the U.S.S.R. includes an atomic power station, a powerful phasotron (an accelerating machine), the Lebedev Institute and the Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

Astronomical Clock in York Minster

A MEMORIAL to airmen who fell while operating from bases in Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire during the Second World War was unveiled in York Minster by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on November 1. The memorial contains an astronomical clock, designed by Dr. R. d'E. Atkinson and made under his direction in the workshops of the Royal Observatory. There are two main dials. On the west is a "Zodiacal" dial which shows the apparent motions of the sun. A large convex disk represents the horizon, as seen from York facing south, and a sun rises from behind this, passes across the sky and sets behind the disk again. The times of rising and setting are accurate to within one minute. The rays surrounding